

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL:JD
APPROVED BY D - THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
ARA:AMBASSADOR TODMAN
ARA:SALLY A. SHETON
S/P: MR. PAUL KREISBERG
S/S - DAVID ANDERSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: ROLE OF U.S. EMBASSY IN NICARAGUA

1. WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED REVIEW OF OUR POLICY IN
NICARAGUA . FOLLOWING
INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO GUIDE ROLE OF EMBASSY UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.

2. KEY U.S. OBJECTIVES ARE:

A. TO AVOID DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL POLITICAL
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MANUEVERING.

B. TO AVOID BEING SEEN TO BE PROPPING UP SOMOZA
GOVERNMENT OR SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY OPPOSITION TO UNSEAT
SOMOZA.

C. TO MAINTAIN OUR SUPPORT PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY FOR

INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPEN POLITICAL PROCESSES.

3. EMBASSY ROLE SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND COUNSEL TO BOTH SIDES TO AVOID VIOLENCE AND REPRISALS AND SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT SOMOZA'S INTENTIONS ARE POSITIVE, WE MUST NOT BE IN POSITION OF GUARANTEEING HIS PERFORMANCE IN ANY WAY. SIMILARLY WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR ANY OPPOSITION GROUP WITH SOMOZA. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EMBASSY AVOID SLIDING INTO A MIDDLEMAN ROLE BETWEEN OPPOSITION AND SOMOZA AND SHOULD NOT OFFER SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON HOW POLITICAL FORCES SHOULD RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. THERE ARE MANY WAYS IN WHICH CONTENDING SIDES CAN COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN NICARAGUA. YOU SHOULD ENCOURAGE DIRECT CONTACT AND SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT CARRY MESSAGES, PROPOSALS OR ASSURANCES OF ANY KIND.

4. WE SENSE THAT SOME OPPOSITION GROUPS ARE TRYING TO CONVINCE EMBASSY THAT SOMOZA MUST GO AND U.S. SHOULD SOMEHOW MANAGE DEPARTURE. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO NICARAGUANS THAT THIS ISSUE IS ONE OF A PURELY NICARAGUAN INTERNAL POLITICAL CHARACTER AND ONE IN WHICH THE U.S. WILL PLAY NO ROLE.

5. IN GENERAL, LESS CONTACT WITH BOTH OPPOSITION
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AND GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE BEST COURSE FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE EXCEPT AS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT ABOVE.

6. SEPARATE MESSAGE DEALS WITH MOVE OF MILGROUP TO EMBASSY OFFICES.

7. REQUEST EMBASSY PROVIDE GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR ABOVE TO COVER NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU DURING WEEK FEBRUARY 26. VANCE

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